

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07338 011009Z

17-12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /126 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 850

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UNCLAS SEOUL 7338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJ: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG-SHIK NOVEMBER 1 ANNOUNCED CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOJ ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. HE SAID THAT ROKG HAD REMOVED KIM TONG-UN FROM HIS POSITION AND WAS INVESTIGATING HIS POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT; THAT ROKG WOULD NOT HOLD KIM TAE-CHUNG RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTI-STATE WORDS AND ACTIONS WHILE ABROAD; AND THAT PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL WOULD VISIT JAPAN AND EXPRESS REGRET OVER INCIDENT.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG-SHIK MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS RE SETTLEMENT OF KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE IN BRIEF TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON OF NOV. 1.

A. CONCERNING POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF KIM TONG-UN, ROKG HAS ALREADY REMOVED HIM FROM HIS POSITION (I. E., FIRED HIM) AND HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF HIS POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT. APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST HIM DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION.

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B. ROKG WILL NOT HOLD KIM TAE-CHUNG RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS

WORDS AND ACTIONS BEFORE RETURNING TO KOREA AND PARTICULARLY DURING HIS STAY IN JAPAN, PROVIDED THAT HE DOES NOT REPEAT SUCH ANTI-STATE WORDS AND ACTIONS IN THE FUTURE.

C. PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL WILL VISIT JAPAN TOMORROW TO DISCUSS THE CASE WITH PRIME MINISTER TANAKA. ON THAT OCCASION PRIME MINISTER KIM WILL EXPRESS REGRET TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE THAT CASE OCCURRED IN THE HEART OF THEIR CAPITAL; THAT VICTIM AND PERPETRATORS WERE KOREANS AND THAT INCIDENT WAS OCCASION FOR PUBLIC OUTCRY.

2. REPLYING TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT KIM TAE-CHUNG'S TRAVEL, FOREIGN MINSTER REPEATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT A PASSPORT APPLICATION BY KIM WOULD BE GIVEN SAME TREATMENT AS ANYONE ELSE. HE RECALLED THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG HAD INDICATED DURING TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO TRAVEL AT PRESENT.
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